REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

The December 23, 2003 Office Action and the Examiner's comments have been carefully considered. In response, claims are cancelled and added, and remarks are set forth below in a sincere effort to place the present application in form for allowance. The amendments are supported by the application as originally filed. Therefore, no new matter is added.

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

In the Office Action the Abstract of the Disclosure is objected to as not being in compliance with MPEP Section 608.01(b). In response, the Abstract of the Disclosure is amended to more clearly comply with the requirements of MPEP Section 608.01(b). In view of the amendment of the Abstract of the Disclosure, reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to the Abstract of the Disclosure are respectfully requested.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

The Examiner's indication that claims 6 and 7 are objected to, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form, is acknowledged and appreciated. In response, claims 6 and 7 are cancelled and re-presented as new claims 15 and 16 (which are ultimately dependent on claim 11). Claims 15 and 16 are not presented in independent form in view of the asserted allowance of new claim 11. If, however, claim 11 is ultimately held to not be allowable over the prior art of record, Applicants respectfully reserve the right to present claims 15 and 16 in independent form.

PRIOR ART REJECTIONS

In the Office Action, claims 1-5 and 8-10 are rejected under 35 USC 103 as being unpatentable over USP 5,241,542 (Natarajan et al.) in view of USP 5,657,317 (Mahany et al.). In response, claims 1-5 and 8-10 are cancelled and new claims 11-15 and 18-21 are presented..

New claim 11 corresponds to prior claim 1. New claim 11 is directed to a method for transmitting data from several first stations (1a-1n) to a second station (2). The first stations each include at least a first transmitter (11), a first receiver

(12) and a first clock (16), and the second station (2) includes at least a second transmitter (21), a second receiver (22) and a second clock (26). The method includes the steps of transmitting, in a synchronization time slot (5) of a time window (4), a synchronization message (SYN) from the second station (2) to the first stations (1), transmitting, in a selection time slot of the time window (4), selection messages (SEL) from the second station (2) to selected first stations (1), deactivating the receivers (12) of the first stations (1) at the end of the selection time slot (6), and transmitting, in response time slots (8) of the time window (4), data from selected first stations (1) to the second station (2). Each first station (1), to which a selection message (SEL) corresponding to that first station (1) has been transmitted by the second station (2), deactivates its receiver as soon as the corresponding selection message (SEL) is received by the first station before the end of the selection time slot (6, T2).

New claim 11 differs from prior claim 1 in that claim 11 now recites that each first station, to which a selection message corresponding to that first station has been transmitted to the second station, deactivates its receiver as soon as the corresponding selection message is received by the first station

before the end of the time slot. Support for this limitation can be found in the present application as originally filed (see page 7, lines 25-26, *inter alia*).

USP 5,241,542 (Natarajan et al.) teach that the receivers of the first station remain on during the whole selection time slot BH. In contrast, new claim 11 states that for each first station its receiver is deactivated as soon as the corresponding selection message (SEL) is received by the first station before the end of the selection time slot. Claim 11 is also patentable over Natarajan et al. since Natarajan et al. teach that the receivers remain on during the full period of the header for the purpose of collecting additional information, a number of packets for each first station to transmit. With this information the first stations of Natarajan et al. are able to calculate the time when their transmitters should be turned on (see Natarajan et al. at column 5, lines 9-29). New claim 11 reduces the amount of power required for transmitting data by deactivating the receiver of each first station as soon as the corresponding selection message is received by the first station before the end of the selection time slot.

It is acknowledged that USP 5,657,314 (Mahany et al.) disclose sending a synchronization message in a synchronization

time slot. However, Mahany et al. do not disclose, teach or suggest a method for transmitting data wherein each first station, to which a selection message corresponding to that first station has been transmitted to the second station deactivates its receiver as soon as the corresponding selection message is received by the first station before the end of the selection time slot as recited in new claim 11.

In view of the foregoing, Natarajan et al., taken either alone or in combination with Mahany et al. do not disclose, teach or suggest the feature of, for each first station to which a selection message corresponding to that first station has been transmitted to the second station, deactivating its receiver as soon as the corresponding selection message is received by the first station before the end of the selection time slot as recited in new claim 11 (see claim 11, lines 17-21).

New claims 12-19 are either directly or indirectly dependent on claim 11 and are patentable over the cited references in view of their dependence on claim 11 and because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the features recited in dependent claims 12-19.

In view of the foregoing, claims 11-19 are patentable over the cited references under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

New claim 20 is directed to an apparatus corresponding to claim 11. New claim 20 is patentable over the cited references for reasons, *inter alia*, set forth above in connection with claim 11.

New claim 21 is dependent on claim 20 and recites that the transmitter is activatable only during the response time slot. Claim 21 is patentable over the cited references in view of its dependence on claim 20 and because the references do not disclose, teach or suggest each of the limitations set forth in new claim 20.

In view of the foregoing, claims 11-21 are patentable over the cited references under 35 USC 102 as well as 35 USC 103.

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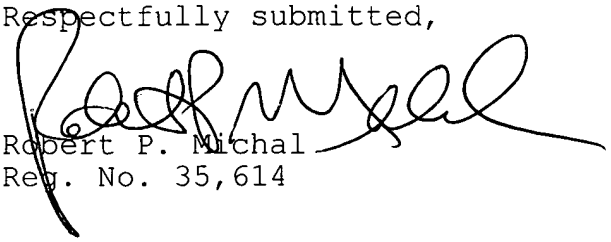
If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing, the Examiner is respectfully requested to point out where there is support for a contrary view.

Entry of this Amendment, allowance of the claims, and the passing of this application to issue are respectfully solicited.

If the Examiner has any comments, questions, objections or recommendations, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the telephone number given below for prompt action.

Respectfully submitted,



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Encl.: Petition for Extension of Time